



PAUL FARROW

STATE SENATOR

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2013

To: Chairman Tom Tiffany and Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue

From: Senator Paul Farrow (R-Pewaukee; 33rd Senate District)

Topic: Senate Bill 220; Relating to: lengthening the time during which tax increments may be allocated and expenditures for project costs may be made for Tax Incremental District Number 1 in the Village of Wales

I want to thank Chairman Tiffany and members of the Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue for holding a Public Hearing on Senate Bill 220. Both Representative Kapenga and I have worked extensively with the Village of Wales to see that this piece of legislation is moved through the legislative process, passed and signed into law during this upcoming fall session.

As you may be aware, the Joint Review Board approved the creation of the Tax Incremental Financing District #1 of the Village of Wales on July 28, 2006. This TID was created to assure that a combination of private commercial and residential development would occur in the district consistent with the Village of Wales' development objectives.

However, due to the economic downturn beginning in 2008, the proposed development of TID #1 was slowed. It is believed that without the extension of the current TID, future development and economic growth is unlikely to occur. Assembly Bill 255 goes a long way in helping to move development along as the village prepares for a major state highway project.

Currently, the State of Wisconsin is preparing to reconstruct Highway 83 through the Village of Wales in 2014. Village officials believe it is advantageous for the village to install infrastructure that is concurrent with the Highway 83 reconstruction. In order to be fiscally responsible and act in the best interest of village residents these infrastructure improvements should be made with TID dollars.

After speaking with Village President, Mr. Jeffery Flaws, Representative Kapenga and I decided to pursue this legislation to extend the life of TID #1 in the Village of Wales by an additional 17 years. It is believed that this extension will encourage economic development and properly fund sewer service to Highway 18 and Highway 83 commercial/residential properties as approved upon the original implementation in 2006.

It has been pointed out to me that there is precedent for this request and piece of legislation. 2009 Wisconsin Act 67 extended the life of Tax Incremental District #2 in the City of Racine by the ten year maximum. The Village of Wales is seeking the same consideration afforded to the City of Racine.

Again, I thank Chairman Tiffany and members of the committee for the time and consideration they are giving to the Village of Wales and to Senate Bill 220. If you should have any questions regarding this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office

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